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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW
(2-8 June 1978)

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[redacted]

This publication is a compilation of articles prepared by the geographical divisions of the Office of Regional and Political Analysis. Inquiries may be directed to the Production Staff,

3.5(c) [redacted].

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-- EC-Argentina: The issue of human rights violations in Argentina was the focus of a one-day public hearing in Brussels in late May. Held under the auspices of Socialist members of the European Parliament--British Laborites reportedly played the leading role--the session was intended to underscore concern over EC states' participation in the current World Cup soccer matches in Argentina, a country where several West Europeans have been detained or have disappeared, and where human rights violations have been widespread. A report on the hearing is to be submitted to the European Parliament, which reconvenes on 12 June. The report may recommend that EC members cease military sales to Argentina and seek to deny it funds from international financial institutions. Prospects for implementation of such a common policy, however, appear negligible. [redacted] 3.5(c)

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LATIN AMERICA

-- Brazil: Civilian and military dissidents in Brazil continue to try to undermine President-designate Figueiredo despite internal differences and government moves to blunt their impact. It still appears unlikely that Figueiredo's candidacy will be derailed--President Geisel and the high command appear undaunted--but the very existence of dissidence is a source of concern to the regime.

An effort to challenge the candidacy of Figueiredo has been under way for many weeks. It involves civilian politicians seeking rapid liberalization, military officers who sympathize with this desire, and military men who oppose Figueiredo for personal or other reasons. There has been considerable speculation that these dissidents aim to nominate a presidential condidate--probably retired General Euler Bentes Monteiro--to run under the banner of the nominal opposition party.

The dissidents face formidable obstacles. The opposition party, for example, appears fearful of formally endorsing the dissident's plan. The party held a convention last week but failed to take up the question of naming a candidate, though it could legally still do so at a later date. Moreover, support within the military for the anti-Figueiredo cause does not appear to be growing rapidly, if at all. Officers who were approached in Sao Paulo, for example, are reported to have declined to support the dissidents actively, although some acknowledged their sympathy privately.

The dissidents, however, are determined to press the issue and, at the very least, will make life difficult for the regime in the coming months. A former Geisel cabinet minister now in the forefront of the

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3.5(c) dissident movement insists that an alternative military candidate backed by the opposition party is an inevitable solution to the present situation.

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